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April 18, 1990

UM JAZZ FESTIVAL TO FEATURE THIELMANS, FINDLEY

MISSOULA --

Renowned musicians Toots Thielmans and Chuck Findley will be featured performers during the University of Montana's ninth annual jazz festival, scheduled for Friday and Saturday, April 27 and 28.

The two-day festival doubles as a clinic for young performers, featuring performances by 18 Northwest high school jazz bands who will receive feedback from professional musicians.

UM's Jazz Band I will accompany Findley and Thielmans in evening concerts. Findley, who recently became lead trumpet in "The Tonight Show" band, will perform Friday night. A leading Los Angeles session artist, he performs on numerous artists' recordings. When a performer needs a trumpet for a recording, chances are good that Findley will get the call, UM Jazz Director Lance Boyd said.

Thielmans, who Boyd called "a musician's musician," will perform on harmonica and guitar Saturday night. He has recorded with most of the world's leading musicians, and "almost any harmonica you hear on a soundtrack is Toots," Boyd said. Thielmans now lives in his native Belgium, but worked in the United States for much of his career, including a stint as director of music for Arthur Godfrey's radio show in the 1950s and '60s. Thielmans is best known to the public as a harmonica player, but scored a Top 40 hit in the early 60s with

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"Bluesette," a tune in which he whistled along with his guitar.

Both concerts will begin at 8 p.m. in the University Theatre of UM's Fine Arts Building. Tickets for each concert are \$6 for general admission, \$4 for students and senior citizens. For further information, call the UM music department at 243-6880.

The festival's daytime sessions will be devoted to performances by 18 high school bands from Montana, Idaho, Washington, North Dakota and Canada. Performances, free and open to the public, are planned from 9 a.m. to noon and 2 to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday in the University Theatre.

Two respected clinicians, Frank Smith and Robert Curnow, will work with the high school bands, critiquing their performances and providing valuable feedback, Boyd said. Smith is a woodwinds and keyboards performer and teacher from Phoenix, Ariz. Trombonist Curnow was one of the chief arrangers for the Stan Kenton Band in the late 1960s and '70s. He currently heads Sierra Music Publications in Spokane.

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